



Peace Sunday 2023 Worship Resources

Prepared by the
MWC Peace
Commission for
17 September 2023

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Theme and texts

a. Theme:

**We are Family!
Participating in
God’s family**

b. Why this theme was chosen:

In Jesus’ prayer, Jesus asks God that his disciples may be one just as he and the Father are one. But he doesn’t stop there. He offers the hope that “they also may be one in us” (John 17:21), that his followers may participate in God, in the divine itself, so as to be a visible sign to a watching world. This year’s Peace Sunday resources explore what makes a “family” a space in which people can embody just and peaceful relationships with one another, witnessing to God’s shalom.

c. Biblical texts:

- John 17:20-26
- Matthew 12:46-50

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Prayer Requests

- For the conflict in Ukraine. May those involved in the conflict recognize the humanity of the other across the border. May they recognize their interconnectedness and put an end to the pain and suffering. May they recognize that war ultimately only tears people further apart.
- For a change regarding the hostility the Indian government has exhibited toward Christians.
- For people in Myanmar – especially our Mennonite siblings – as they experience ongoing violence.
- For our Mennonite siblings in North America (i.e., Turtle Island) to explore ways of standing in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and their struggles for land, recognition, dignity and restitution.



Juan Francisco Novoa

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Song Sug- gestions

From the MWC International Songbook 2022

- Dalam Yesus kita bersaudara / In Jesus Christ, we are one family
- Tapaiko Cheuma / I am your child
- We, your people, sing your praises / Bon berger, ton peuple t’adore / Kami Umat-mu Memuji
- You’re not alone

Please check your church’s copyright protocols before using these songs in public gatherings.

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Additional resources

mwc-cmm.org/peacesunday

a. Additional resources in this package

- Suggested liturgies for gathering and benediction
- Prayers
- Teaching resources

b. Additional resources available online:

- Pictures (including all used in this package)



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Activities

Community Mapping

Creating a social “family” tree

Purpose: to highlight the many and broad social connections that we as communities of faith have.

- In advance: create, out of construction paper, a tree trunk with a few branches. Tape or attach the tree trunk on to a wall.
 - Create larger branches that can symbolize members of the faith community.
 - Create smaller branches for communities church members are connected to (e.g., school, another congregation or church structure, other church ministries, workplaces, etc.)
 - Out of paper, form leaves of many colours
- Invite members to add their name to a branch.
 - From those branches, each member can then begin to highlight the different social connections that they may have.
- Use leaves to highlight specific people to whom one is connected through the different “branches”. Take the time to validate the things that have or can cause chaos.

Hopefully this result in a beautiful, wide, vibrant and colourful tree that expands across the wall, highlighting the many connections the church community has.

With permission, send your story and photo to photo@mwc-cmm.org to share with the global Anabaptist family.



Bethel Mennonite Church in Balodgahan, India celebrates Peace Sunday 2022.

Ashish Mliap



Lacao Mennonite Bible Church in Lumban, Laguna (IMC - Philippines) celebrates Peace Sunday in 2022 by singing international songs and creating the peace garden (suggested activity from the worship resource) where members write on the fruits and vegetables about “how we can make an impact in the community.”

Regina Mondez

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How did you use these resources to practice peace?

✉ Send your stories, photos, videos or artwork to photos@mwc-cmm.org

The biblical texts, prayers, song suggestions, sermon ideas, testimonies and other resources in this package have been prepared by members of MWC out of their experience in their local context. The teaching does not necessary represent an official MWC position.